

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 159

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro
(Coauthor: Senator Evans)

June 10, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159—Relative to the Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 159, as introduced, Chesbro. Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 116 in the County of Sonoma as the Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway. The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds was born on February 23, 1943,
- 2 in Rohnerville, California, grew up in Sonoma County, and
- 3 graduated from Healdsburg High School in 1960; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds joined the United States Army
- 5 in 1964 and served in Vietnam in the 81st Airborne Infantry
- 6 Division; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds first served with the Sonoma
- 8 County Sheriff’s Office in 1970 as a Summer Deputy and was
- 9 assigned to the Guerneville Substation; and

1 WHEREAS, After graduating from Sacramento State University,
2 Merrit W. Deeds moved to Alaska to attend the Alaska State
3 Trooper Academy and, upon graduation from the academy, became
4 an Alaska State Trooper; and

5 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds moved back to California in 1975
6 with his wife and again became a Summer Deputy for the Sonoma
7 County Sheriff's Office on May 23, 1975; and

8 WHEREAS, On August 23, 1975, the Sonoma County Sheriff's
9 Office notified Merrit W. Deeds that he was to become a
10 permanent, full-time Deputy Sheriff with the sheriff's office; and

11 WHEREAS, Only hours after this notification, Deputy Sheriff
12 Deeds was patrolling State Highway Route 116 near Jenner when
13 he stopped to talk with three men who were parked on the side of
14 the road; and

15 WHEREAS, The driver of the vehicle fired two shots at Deputy
16 Sheriff Deeds, the second of which was fatal; and

17 WHEREAS, Reserve Deputy Rex Nance, who was off duty,
18 stopped to assist, and Deputy Sheriff Deeds was able to warn him
19 that the driver had a gun, possibly saving Reserve Deputy Nance's
20 life; and

21 WHEREAS, At 32 years of age, Deputy Sheriff Deeds sacrificed
22 his life in meritorious service for the residents of the County of
23 Sonoma and the State of California; and

24 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Deeds was survived by his wife
25 and two small daughters; and

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
28 portion of State Highway Route 116 from State Highway Route
29 1 to Armstrong Woods Road in the County of Sonoma as the
30 Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway; and be it
31 further

32 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
33 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
34 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
35 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
36 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
37 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
- 3 for appropriate distribution.

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